

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image heating apparatus for heating an image formed on a recording material, comprising:
  - a heater;
  - 5 a holder for holding said heater;
  - a rotating member rotating around said holder, said rotating member being flexible and having a metal layer; and
  - a pressure roller forming a nip with said
  - 10 heater across said rotating member;
  - wherein said rotating member moves with detaching from said pressure roller just after passing through a just after passing through a down stream end portion of a surface of said heater at a
  - 15 side of said pressure roller in surface of said heater.
2. An image heating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said rotating member further
- 20 comprises an elastic layer.
3. An image heating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a separation angle is equal to or more than 10 degrees and equal to or less than 40
- 25 degrees, the separating angle being defined as an angle between an ideal plane extending from the surface opposed to said pressure roller in surfaces

of said heater and another ideal plane tangential to  
an side surface curve of said rotating member.